

JUSTICE COMMITTEE

HATE CRIME AND PUBLIC ORDER (SCOTLAND) BILL

SUBMISSION FROM JOSEPH KRIEGER

Hate Crime & Public Order (Scotland) Bill.

Regarding Question No 6

May I express my personal views regarding plans to introduce a new offence of stirring up hatred.

1. In our free society we must protect that we can debate our religious views on morality.
2. The existing law already deals with threatening or abusive behaviours, no new law is needed.
3. In Church services a Christian must be free to make a definite teaching on what the Bible clearly states, regarding that salvation can only be through Faith in The Lord Jesus Christ.
Also what the Bible clearly states regarding homosexual behaviour, this is not to stir up hatred but to be free to teach the truth according to the Bible.
4. We must be free to express what we believe regarding religion whatever position a person holds. Any new stirring up of hatred should only cover threatening conduct which is intended to stir up hatred.
5. The free speech clause on religion must be stronger to protect more than mere discussion or criticism. People should feel free to vigorously challenge religious beliefs.
- 6 Free speech clause on sexual orientation must be strengthened so that same sex marriage are explicitly covered and more robust debate is also protected.
7. Free speech clauses are important to prevent the police being inundated with politically motivated complaints labelling disagreement as hatred and also vexatious reports
8. We must be sure that there is a clear distinction between legitimate debate and rabble rousing which this bill does not reflect.

**Thank you for allowing me to express my personal views . It is so important to be able to maintain our existing gospel freedom in our land .
I do trust that MSPs will understand the dangers of this bill and give it proper scrutiny.**

Joseph Krieger
20 July 2020